

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1999
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bob Workman
Linda Steinman
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999

MOTION: Steinman moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting Minutes dated August 31, 1999. On call Steinman, Heier, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- a. Local Workforce Investment Area
- b. Monthly Meeting with the Mayor
- c. Maintenance Agreement for Register of Deeds

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. On call Steinman, Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

3 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- a. Joint Budget Committee - Steinman, Campbell

Steinman reported the following:

- * A review of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska was scheduled
- * Approval was given to Keno recommendations

- * Appointment of Cindy Johnson to the Funders Group
- * Discussion of the Comprehensive-Based Human Services Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Plan and a decision to proceed with a “report card” of how the community is doing and whether additional funding is needed

b. Ecological Advisory Committee - Heier

Heier reported that the Ecological Advisory Committee received a planning update and a presentation on environmental concerns in growth. He also reported that the mediation process is complete.

The Board requested copies of all reports related to the Wilderness Park Study.

c. Railroad Transportation Safety District - Workman, Heier, Steinman

Workman reported that 1.25 million dollars was approved for the Baseball Partnership Project. He stated that discussion also took place on the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a bondable agency, noting a presentation on this issue will be given at the next Commons meeting.

Steinman added that the Railroad Transportation Safety District voted to give the County Board the authority to use the increase in valuations.

d. Emergency Management Advisory Committee - Workman

Workman reported on plans to change the Advisory Committee to a User’s Committee, noting the County Board will retain representation.

e. Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

Campbell reported that presentations were given on the following:

- * The Business Development Council
- * Centurion International Inc.
- * Opportunities available through the University of Nebraska College of Business
- * Hampton’s proposed development of 420 acres on North 27th Street

4 (A) UNPAVED ROADS IN UNINCORPORATED VILLAGES

Steinman reported that a citizen in the unincorporated village of Kramer has complained about dust from trucks accessing the grain elevator.

Marcia Wilhite, Air Quality Supervisor for Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, said the owners of the grain elevator have agreed to re-route truck traffic through their property, which should help to alleviate the problem. She noted that residents’ concerns with regards to hydrous ammonia containment are also being addressed.

Scott Holmes, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Environmental Health Division Chief, added that his department is also working with residents and the owners to resolve disputes centering on charges of groundwater contamination and towing of private vehicles.

Wilhite explained that dust from unpaved roads can persist in the air, creating particulate matter that is respirable. She said interim solutions include spreading oil or a dust suppressant such as calcium chloride. Wilhite suggested exploration of the cost and feasibility of these solutions, noting the Health Department may be able to assist with costs through prioritization of transportation funding from the State.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Don Thomas, County Engineer, stated it is difficult to gauge the effectiveness of dust suppressants or effect its on vegetation, as use has been limited in this County. He noted one downside to application is that road maintenance is restricted following its use.

Steinman asked whether residents could form a Special Improvement District (S.I.D.) to pay for paving.

Campbell said they could, but members of the S.I.D. would be responsible for road maintenance costs until the debt is retired.

Steinman suggested that identification of problem roads be included in discussion of planning issues and future growth.

Wilhite said air sampling of roads with various traffic counts will help in prioritizing roads for treatment.

Campbell remarked that the Board will need to see long term data before initiating any programs. She suggested that the Health Department conduct air samples over a six month period, and review the situation with the Board a year from now.

The Board requested the Health Department to share road dust complaints received by their agency with the County Engineer's Office. The Board also requested the County Engineer to provide a copy of the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program to the Health Department.

(B) COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN ASH HOLLOW FLOOD CONTROL

Thomas said the City of Waverly has asked the County to assist in funding a clean-out of the channel between Interstate 80 and the Amberly Road box culvert as part of its efforts to control flooding in the Ash Hollow subdivision. He stated this will increase the box culvert's hydraulics, but some agricultural land will be taken out of production as a result. Thomas noted the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) has agreed to fund one half of the costs and recommended that, should the County elect to participate in the project, it limit participation to \$10,000.

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to authorize up to \$10,000 for this project, with the understanding that future requests will include the City of Waverly's plans for future development.

AMENDMENT: Hudkins proposed an amendment which would cap the County's share at twenty-five percent of the project's total costs, not to exceed \$10,000, and to require the County Engineer's approval.

The motioner and seconder agreed to that amendment.

ROLL CALL: Heier, Workman, Steinman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board requested Ron Melbye, Mayor of Waverly, to appear at a County Board Staff Meeting to answer questions regarding future development.

(C) INTRODUCTION OF ROBERT HENSARLING, NEW RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGER

Thomas introduced Robert Hensarling, the new Right-of-Way Manager.

5 COURTROOM PEWS FOR JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER - Don Killeen, County Property Manager; Steve Flanders, Public Building Commission Project Manager

Steve Flanders, Public Building Commission Project Manager, presented a tabulation of bids submitted in a re-bid of courtroom pews for the Justice and Law Enforcement Center (Exhibit A). He recommended acceptance of the low bid of \$47,266 submitted by Sauder Manufacturing of Ohio which utilizes engineered board and veneer, rather than solid oak construction.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Steinman seconded to accept the low bid of \$47,266. On call Hudkins, Steinman, Workman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

NOTE: The Board will formally accept the bid at a Tuesday, County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

6 COMPUTERS FOR COUNTY ATTORNEY - Gary Lacey, County Attorney; Doug Thomas, Information Services Director

Doug Thomas, Information Services Director, reported that the County Attorney's computer request has been reduced to \$62,489, as a result of a reassessment of needs (Commissioners Information Packet). Less expensive models are now proposed for thirteen of the fifteen requested laptop computers. Thomas explained that his department is still assessing the network connectivity of replication ports versus docking stations for the laptop computers, but a substitution would not have a negative impact on the budget.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to approve the configuration and number of computers stated in the budget estimate, but to keep connectivity for the laptop computers open until further consultation with Lane Bakke, technology consultant. On call Steinman, Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

Workman reported that problems experienced with the video streaming appear to be related to connections, rather than equipment.

7 VOTE COUNTING MACHINES - Dave Shively, Election Commissioner; Bonnie Sittig, Deputy Election Commissioner; Delores Lee, Election Commission

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, briefly reviewed a request for two additional ES&S Model-500 vote counting machines, for a total cost of \$86,000. He noted this price quote is effective through the end of September.

In response to a question from Heier, Delores Lee, Election Commission, explained that preventive maintenance is scheduled for all of the vote counting machines prior to major elections.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to tentatively approve the Election Commissioner's request and to authorize the County Attorney's Office to prepare necessary documents for a County Board of Commissioners Meeting. On call Hudkins, Workman, Steinman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

a. Local Workforce Investment Area

Board consensus to schedule a briefing on this item on the agenda for the Tuesday, September 21st County Board of Commissioners Meeting. The adoption of the Interlocal Agreement creating a workforce investment area for Lancaster County, Saunders County and the City of Lincoln will also be on the agenda.

8 PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS REGARDING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ON OCTOBER 15, 1999 - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, reported that the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have collectively targeted the communities of Lincoln; Des Moines, Iowa; and Aurora, Colorado for four general areas of funding of items identified by the community as necessary to combat weapons of mass destruction and terrorism in the form of a biological agent. He noted that one area of funding targets compatible radio communications systems and suggested this could serve as a funding mechanism for a county-wide 800 megahertz radio system.

Ahlberg stated representatives of those federal agencies will tour Lincoln on October 14th. A training session for City and County elected officials and department heads is scheduled the next day at the Commons Meeting. He noted that the Citizens Information Center will videotape this presentation for viewing by any official unable to attend this session.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

b. Monthly Meeting with the Mayor

The Board suggested the following topics for discussion:

- * Stevens Creek Process
- * Griffin Grant Writing Proposal

9 DIRECTORS SALARIES - John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Georgia Glass, Personnel Director

The Board reviewed a list of salaries tentatively approved at the Tuesday, August 31st County Board Staff Meeting and adjusted the salary of Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator, to \$87,000. (See Exhibit B for Updated Directors Salary Information).

NOTE: The Board will formally adopt annual salary increases for County Directors and Assistant Directors at the Tuesday, September 14th County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

c. Maintenance Agreement for Register of Deeds

Dan Nolte, Register of Deeds, appeared and explained that the requested maintenance agreement, in the amount of \$1,100, is for a specialized piece of microfilm reader/printer equipment crucial to office functions and revenue.

In response to a question from Steinman, Nolte said similar equipment is not available within the building.

Heier questioned whether it might be more cost effective to purchase a used piece of equipment to serve as a back-up.

Eagan noted that the maintenance agreement will need to be amended to reflect payment after services are rendered, in compliance with Nebraska Revised Statutes governing payment of claims.

The Board requested the County Attorney's Office to proceed with development of a maintenance agreement, as discussed.

10 ACTION ITEMS

- a. Letter to Supreme Court Regarding Indigency Standards

MOTION: Steinman moved and Workman seconded to forward the letter to Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hendry. On call Steinman, Workman, Heier, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

- b. Request from Lincoln Airport Authority for Petition Regarding Air Service

Board members expressed concern that a petition may exacerbate the problem.

The Board requested the Chair to contact John Wood, Lincoln Airport Authority Executive Director, and indicate that the Board is generally supportive of the efforts to improve air service.

11 CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Vacation Request from Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, for Monday, September 20, 1999 and Friday, October 8, 1999

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded approval. On call Steinman, Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- a. Letter from Lancaster County Medical Society

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, appeared and provided a brief background on the Medicaid reimbursement dispute with a physician that prompted the letter from the Lancaster County Medical Society (Commissioners Information Packet). He noted that most jail inmates are indigent and compensation is based on Medicaid rates.

In response to a question from Steinman, Thurber stated private practice physicians may refuse Medicaid patients.

Board consensus to send a letter of response, stating that the letter has been forwarded to a committee comprised of representatives of the County Attorney's Office and the Department of Corrections for review and additional response from the Board will be forthcoming.

- b. LR 56 (Reimbursement of Counties for Post-Commitment Expenses)

Eagan reported that the first legislative hearing on LB 708, which changes provisions for admission of persons to state hospitals and use of other facilities, will be held on November 18th. He suggested that a committee he serves on with Commissioner Steinman; Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer; Mike Thew, Deputy County Attorney; Bill Bonacker, Community Mental Health Center Interim Director; Denise Bulling, Community Mental Health Crisis Center Director; and Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, meet with George Hanigan, Director of Behavior Health and other representatives of the State Department of Health and Human Services, prior to that hearing to discuss post-commitment costs.

The Board concurred.

c. Locking of Commissioners' Offices

Members of the Board were polled, with Steinman the only Commissioner indicating a preference for a locked office during absences.

d. Russian Guests

Eagan will meet with members of the Russian Leadership Program at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14th. These dignitaries will also be recognized at the County Board of Commissioners Meeting later that afternoon.

e. Griffin Grant Writing & Associates

Eagan reported that he will be holding a conference call with Gina Dunning, Mayor's Chief of Staff, and representatives of Griffin Grant Writing & Associates later in the afternoon to discuss their proposal.

17 AGENDA ITEMS FOR COUNTY BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1999

a. Keno Human Services Prevention Fund Allocation

18 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Board consensus to hold a Staff Meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 16th, rather than immediately following the County Board of Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, September 14th. The Board will tour the Justice and Law Enforcement Center immediately following that meeting.

19 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk